

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:CCORDER:ISA/FMRA:COL. KEENAN:ML
APPROVED BY PM/ISO: GTCHURCHILL
EUR/CAN - C.CLEMENT

-----034176 121855Z /47

R 121818Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO SECDEF WASH DC ISA FMRA
HQ USAF WASH DC XXOXXI
HQ TAC LANGLEY AFB VA IG
USDAO OTTAWA AIRA
USAF FREQ MGT OFC WASHDC
9AF SHAW AFB SC IG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148490

E.O. 11652:ADS-DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

TAGS: MARR, OCLR, CA, US

SUBJECT: USE OF CANADIAN BOMBING RANGE BY USAF AIRCRAFT

1. THE USAF HAS A REQUIREMENT TO LEND REALISM TO OPERATION-
AL READINESS INSPECTIONS (ORI). IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS
TASK, IT IS NECESSARY TO EXERCISE UNIT CAPABILITIES UNDER
VARIOUS CONDITIONS INCLUDING UNFAMILIARITY. THE USAF PRO-
POSES TO CONDUCT SUCH AN OPERATIONAL READINESS INSPECTION
USING THE CANADIAN FORCES RANGE AT PETAWAWA, ONTARIO.
REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK HOST APPROVAL OF THE OPERATION DE-
TAILED BELOW.

2. THE 9TH AIR FORCE (TAC) INSPECTOR GENERAL PLANS TO CON-
DUCT AN OPERATIONAL READINESS INSPECTION OF THE 113TH TAC-
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TICAL FIGHTER WING AND 121ST TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON
WHILE THE UNITS ARE DEPLOYED TO PHELPS-COLLINS AIRPORT AT
ALPENA, MICHIGAN DURING THE PERIOD 8-14 JULY 1978. DURING
THIS PERIOD APPROXIMATELY SIXTEEN MISSIONS WOULD BE FLOWN
WITH UP TO FOUR AIRCRAFT PER MISSION, AS SURFACE ATTACK ON
TACTICAL TARGETS LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
PETAWAWA RANGE (CYD 504). THE F-105 AIRCRAFT WOULD DELIVER

MARK 82 INERT (NO EXPLOSIVE) 500 POUND BOMBS AND/OR BDU-33
PRACTICE BOMBS (EACH BDU-33 CONTAINS A SMALL SPOTTING

CHARGE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO A 10 GAUGE SHOTGUN SHELL).
THE AIRCRAFT WOULD DEPART PHELPS-COLLINS, FLY THE MISSION
AND RETURN TO PHELPS-COLLINS. NO LANDINGS ARE CONTEMPLATED
IN CANADA EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF A DIRE EMERGENCY.

3. USE OF THE PETAWAWA RANGE WOULD BE INVALUABLE IN THE
ASSESSMENT OF THE COMBAT CAPABILITY OF UNITS WHICH WOULD
BE COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE U.S., CANADA AND NATO
ALLIES IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES. REALISTIC APPRAISAL
OF THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS AND READINESS WOULD BE GREATLY
ENHANCED IF THESE UNITS WERE REQUIRED TO NAVIGATE TO AND
ATTACK TARGETS WHICH NORMALLY ARE NOT USED ON FREQUENT AND
ROUTINE TRAINING MISSIONS.

4. FYI. USAF REGRETS ANY INCONVENIENCE THE SHORT LEAD
TIME PROVIDED FOR THIS OPERATION AND EMPHASIZES THAT
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A REALISTIC ORI BY THESE UNITS,
ONE WHICH ACCURATELY ASSESSES THEIR COMBAT CAPABILITY CAN
BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY USE OF PETAWAWA RANGE. INFORMAL
CONTACT WITH CANADIAN AIR COMMAND HQ INDICATES FAVORABLE
REACTION. RANGE SUPPORT AND SAFETY DETAILS WOULD BE
WORKED OUT BETWEEN 9AFIG AND NDHQ. END FYI.

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5. FOR U.S. ADDRESSEES: THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE HANDLED
AS TRUSTED AGENT INFORMATION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, TEST FACILITIES, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE148490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CCORDER:ISA/FMRA:COL. KEENAN:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS IFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780245-0671
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780669/aaaachgv.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f49d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2387029
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USE OF CANADIAN BOMBING RANGE BY USAF AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MARR, OCLR, CA, US
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f49d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014